

## **FSC 03-13**

### **SIMPLIFIED REPORTING**

This packet includes the revised policy and the implementation instructions for a simplified reporting system in the Food Stamp Program.

We are given the authority to operate a simplified reporting system under two laws:

- Under the Food Stamp Reauthorization Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-171), the State is given the authority to operate a simplified reporting system for food stamp households with earned income.
- Under the Farm Security and Reinvestment Act of 2002, the State may include expand the simplified reporting system to households that do not have earned income.

Arkansas now operates a quarterly reporting system where households are certified for twelve months and required to submit a report every three months to maintain eligibility. Under our new semi-annual reporting system, we will require the same households to submit only one report in the sixth month of their 12-month period of certification to maintain eligibility.

Households that are subject to semi-annual reporting would be required to report if the income begins to exceed the Food Stamp Program limit for their household size. (We will notify the household of the income limit for their household size.) These households would have no other reporting requirements. However, under a waiver granted by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services, the State will be allowed to process changes reported by the household to maintain Medicaid and/or TEA eligibility.

The new "limited reporting requirements" will also apply to the following households:

- Migrant and seasonal farmworkers
- Homeless households
- Some self-employed households

These households will be given a four-month certification period.

We will continue to assign 24-month certification periods to aged and disabled households. (These households are only required to submit a report in the 12<sup>th</sup> month of their certification period to maintain eligibility but must report changes in their circumstances as they occur.) With this rulemaking, we will begin assigning 24-month certification periods to aged/disabled households with minor children.

Additionally, in this rulemaking we are implementing regulations issued April 29, 2003, which increased the reporting threshold for unearned income to \$50.

We believe these changes will reduce Program costs and simplify Program administration.